

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S:LSEAGLEBURGER:ML
APPROVED BY S - MR. EAGLEBURGER
S/S- FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167242

NODIS
FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM EAGLEBURGER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YO

SUBJECT: YOUR MEETING WITH SEKULOVSKI

1. I HAVE CHECKED INTO THE ISSUE RAISED BY YOUR TELEGRAM IN ANOTHER CHANNEL AND CAN ASSURE YOU THAT BELOVSKI HAS NOT BEEN IN THE DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS THE ASAD VISIT SINCE IT TOOK PLACE. I CAN REPORT, HOWEVER, THAT ON JUNE 23 BELOVSKI MET WITH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN LEBANON. INTERESTINGLY, NO ONE FROM EUR SAT IN ON THAT MEETING, AND NO ONE FROM EUR HAD SEEN THE MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION (WHICH HAS BEEN POUCHED TO YOU).

2. OBVIOUSLY THE MEMO OF HABIB'S MEETING WITH BELOVSKI SHOULD HAVE BEEN SENT TO YOU BY CABLE AND I HAVE INSTRUCTED THAT IT BE PUT IN CABLE FORM AND SENT TO YOU IMMEDIATELY. HOWEVER, I AGAIN WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO MEETINGS WITH BELOVSKI TO REPORT ON THE ASAD VISIT AND I VERY MUCH SUSPECT THAT WHATEVER YOU HAVE IS SUBSTANTIALLY MORE THAN ANYTHING BELOVSKI COULD HAVE GIVEN US IN ADVANCE OF THE VISIT.

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3. I HAD LUNCH WITH BELOVSKI TODAY AND WILL NOT BORE YOU WITH THE DETAILS OF WHAT WAS BY AND LARGE A MONOLOGUE BY MY HOST. I DID WANT YOU TO KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT ON THREE

SEPARATE (BUT APPROPRIATE) OCCASIONS I MADE CLEAR THAT YOU HAVE THE COMPLETE SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY AND THAT THE YUGOSLAVS OUGHT TO UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT THEY CLASSIFY AS A "HARD LINE" HAS THE SUPPORT AND APPROVAL OF THE HIGHEST OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. BELOVSKI ASKED ABOUT THE WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE; I REPLIED THAT IT ALMOST CERTAINLY WAS A LEAK FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT BY SOME DISGRUNTLED JUNIOR OFFICER. I SAID IT WAS FACTUALLY INACCURATE AND IN NO WAY REPRESENTED THE VIEWS OF ANYBODY IN AUTHORITY IN THE DEPARTMENT OR THE ADMINISTRATION.

4. WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE, I HAVE NOT BEEN UNAWARE OF YOUR CONCERN THAT HAK AND I DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. MY PROBLEM IS THAT I AM AT A LOSS AS TO WHAT TO DO. THE PIECE HAS LARGELY SUNK FROM SIGHT UNREMARKED AND ANYTHING WE DO PUBLICLY WOULD SIMPLY RAISE IT AS AN ISSUE AGAIN. SINCE BELOVSKI RAISED IT AT LUNCH, I REFUTED IT. BUT, HAD BELOVSKI NOT REPEAT NOT RAISED IT, I HAD NO INTENTION OF DISCUSSING IT SINCE IT WOULD HAVE LOOKED, IN MY VIEW, DEFENSIVE AND WOULD HAVE GIVEN THE PIECE A PROFILE IT DID NOT DESERVE. HAVING SAID ALL THIS, IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT MORE MIGHT BE DONE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

5. I WILL BE SENDING YOU A SEPARATE MESSAGE ON THE BRANDON SWEITZER THING. I THINK WE HAVE A SOLUTION.

6. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD SHIFT YOUR COMMUNICATION TO ME TO THIS CHANNEL. I FEEL MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT OUR ABILITY TO CONTROL ITS DISTRIBUTION AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WILL SEE THE MESSAGES IN THE COURSE OF PROCESSING.

7. WITH WARM REGARDS, SINCERELY, YOUR PEN PAL. ROBINSON

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